

960th Maintenance Company trains in Germany

By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock
Public Affairs Specialist
Wyoming National Guard

The phrase “one weekend a month, two weeks a year” is still valid. The phrase refers to the National Guard’s traditional training role. Units traditionally train one weekend a month, and for two weeks a year, they perform training missions or field exercises.

Members from the Wyoming Army National Guard’s 960th Maintenance Company are currently performing their two weeks of annual training in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The mission: To integrate with the German nationals and provide engine inspection/teardown/repair functions, engine component teardown and repair, warehouse and supply functions, and maintenance control functions. The 61 Wyoming Soldiers are working in five locations scattered around Kaiserslautern.

The 960th Maintenance Company performs this mission about every three to four years for similar training activities. Some of the equipment being worked on during this mission will go back into the supply system to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom rotations.

“It’s of great benefit to our Soldiers as we support the Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern and the Rhine Ordnance Barracks,” said Capt. James Ezell, 960th Maintenance Company commander. “It’s also a great cultural experience for both the Germans and our Soldiers as some great friendships have developed from past deployment to Germany.”

Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern is where German contractors working inside a cavernous warehouse take U.S. military vehicles that have suffered extensive damage in Iraq or Afghanistan and completely refurbish them until they look like brand new vehicles.

Ezell said, “We feel proud to have the opportunity to be in Europe and support this area and the war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 960th understands the equipment we work on could potentially save the lives of our fellow Soldiers, so we take pride in our jobs.”

---###---

Cutline for photo: Spc. Mathew Dugan and Master Sgt. John Carey, Wyoming Army National Guard’s 960th Maintenance Company, oversee a local German nationalist tear down a transmission during the 960th annual training, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The

rebuilt transmission will be put back in the Army supply system. U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. John Quigley (Released)